

General to forestall illegal interference and denial of the right to vote would be far more effective in achieving this goal than the private suits for damages presently authorized by the statute or the criminal proceedings authorized under other laws which can never be instituted until after the harm is done.

Consequently, I think that Congress should now recognize that in order to properly execute the Constitution and its amendments, and in order to perfect the intended application of the statute, Section 1971 of Title 42, United States Code, should be amended by:

First, the addition of a section which will prevent anyone, whether acting under color of law or not, from threatening, intimidating or coercing an individual in his right to vote in any election, general, special or primary, concerning candidates for federal office.

Second, authorization to the Attorney General to bring civil proceedings on behalf of the United States or any aggrieved person for preventive or other civil relief in any case covered by the statute.

Third, express provision that all state administrative and judicial remedies need not be first exhausted before resort to the federal courts.

